

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 02217 201519Z

71

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 EUR-06 ISO-00 CAB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 DRC-01 /039 W

----- 103872

R 201512Z FSH 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8081

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ZHRN, OCLR

SUBJ: CIVAIR - SATURN AIRWAYS FLIGHT CLEARANCE REQUESTS

REF: PRETORIA 699

1. SATURN HAS RECENTLY EXPERIENCED PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING FLIGHT CLEARANCES FROM AFRICAN AND ARAB GOVERNMENTS. IN SOME CASES NO REPLIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED TO SATURN'S FILINGS FOR CLEARANCE AND AIRLINE HAS BEEN FORCED AT LAST MINUTE TO RESORT TO EMBASSIES FOR ASSISTANCE TO OBTAIN CLEARANCES WHICH IN OTHER AREAS WOULD BE ROUTINELY ISSUED IN TIMELY FASHION.

2. TO TRY RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM, SATURN HAS ADOPTED PRACTICE OF INFORMING EMBASSIES ALONG FLIGHT ROUTE OF DETAILS OF CLEARWRCE REQUESTS AT SAME TIME THAT IT FILES FOR CLEARANCE WITH CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES OF HOST GOVERNMENTS. IN SOME CASES NOTICE TO EMBASSIES IS FOR ADVANCE INFO ONLY SHOULD LATER ASSISTANCE BE REQUIRED; IN OTHER CASES, WHERE AIRLINE'S EXPERIENCE WOULD INDICATE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE REPLY, ASSISTANCE FROM EMBASSIES IS REQUESTED

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PAGE 02 LONDON 02217 201519Z

AT OUTSET.

3. THIS SYSTEM NOT YET WORKING SATISFACTORILY BUT HOPEFULLY WILL IMPROVE. SOME OF THE PROBLEMS ARE OF SATURN'S CREATION IN THAT PERSONNEL IN UK RESPONSIBLE FOR HALEARANCES LACK EXPERIENCE. AS RESULT, AIRLINE HAS MADE MISTAKES IN FILING FOR CLEARANCES AND, AS EVIDENCED BY REFTEL, IT HAS ON OCCASION ROUTINELY REQUESTED EN EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE WHERE NONE WOULD BE REQUIRED EXCEPT IN UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES. IN OTHER CASES, THERE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS BEYOND CONTROL OF AIRLINE, SUCH AS EQUIPMENT SUBSTITUTIONS, FUEL SHORTAGES AND CLEARANCE DELAYS OR DISAPPROVALS, WHICH HAVE FORCED THE CARRIER TO RESCHEDULE AND/OR REROUTE FLIGHTS. FREQUENT CHANGES IN CLEARANCES HAVE LED TO CONFUSION AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS AT EMBASSIES WHICH HAVE BEEN CALLED UPON TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.

4. FOR PRETORIA- WE HAVE PASSED INFO IN REFTEL TO SATURN. IN FUTURE, UNLESS YOU ARE SPECIFICALLY ADVISED TO THE CONTRARY, YOU SHOULD REGARD SATURN MESSAGES CONCERNING CLEARANCES AS INFO ONLY WITH NO ACTION ON YOUR PART REQUIRED.

5. FOR DEPARTMENT - WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU WOULD CARE TO MAKE TO IMPROVE CLEARANCE PROCEDURES USED BY SATURN.

SOHM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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